

b2 14 11. (Twice Amended) In an output driver that is operable to provide a multi-PAM output having at least two levels, wherein the output is set in accordance with a current control signal, a method of improving resolution of the output driver, the method comprising the steps of:

applying the current control signal to cause the output driver to sink a full scale current;

providing a PVT detector to sense a characteristic that comprises at least one of a process condition, a voltage condition and a temperature condition;

generating a full scale current adjustment signal at the PVT detector;

applying the full scale current adjustment signal to alter the full scale current of the output driver;

applying the current control signal to cause the output driver to sink a second current, wherein the second current is less than the full scale current;

sensing, at the PVT detector, at least one of a process condition, a voltage condition and a temperature condition;

generating a second current adjustment signal at the PVT detector;

applying the second current adjustment signal to alter the second current of the output driver; and

calibrating the altered full scale current of the output driver and the altered second current of the output driver by comparing the altered full scale current with a first reference and comparing the altered second current with a second reference.

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 23 are pending in the application. In the Office Action of December 4, 2002, the Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 7, 9-15 and 20-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Cummins (US Patent No. 5,570,090). In addition, the Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 7, 9-16, 18 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Koyama et al. (US Patent No. 5,570,582). Claims 17 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Koyama. Furthermore, the Examiner rejected claims 5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cummins or Koyama in view of Hicks (US Patent No. 6,015,233). Finally, the

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